

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed June 14, 2006, the Examiner: (a) rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,773,299 ("the '299 patent"); (b) rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,191,265 ("the '265 patent"); (c) objected to claims 3-7, 10-11 and 14-17 as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and (d) allowed claims 18-29.

As a result of this Amendment:

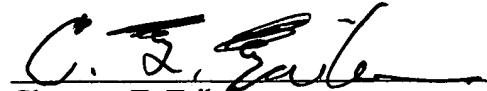
- Claims 1-2 and 5-9 have been cancelled.
- Claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1.
- Claim 30, which depends from claim 3, has been added, and new claim 30 incorporates the limitations of cancelled claim 2.

Since new claim 30 depends from independent claim 3 and since the Examiner has indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if it were amended as it has been amended, claim 30 is also allowable. *E.g., In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 1076 (Fed. Cir. 1988).* (Dependent claim is patentable if the independent claim from which it depends is patentable.)

The present application is in a condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

If the Examiner is of the view that any matter exists that would somehow preclude allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to resolve such matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Clarence E. Eriksen  
Registration No. 27,734  
Clarence E. Eriksen & Associates, P.C.  
Nine Greenway Plaza, Suite 3100  
Houston, Texas 77046  
(713)-572-3700 - Telephone  
(713)-572-3703 - Facsimile

ATTORNEY FOR ASSIGNEE